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In response to the Examiner's restriction/election requirement, Applicants elects with traverse, to prosecute embodiment 1 described in Fig. 4 to Fig. 7. Applicants specifically reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to non-elected embodiments 2-5 described in Figs. 8-12.

Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to M.P.E.P. §803 which states:

"If the search and examination of an entire application can be made <u>without</u> <u>serious burden</u>, the Examiner must examine on the merits, even though it includes claims too distinct or independent invention." (emphasis added)

There are two criteria for a proper requirement for restriction. The invention should be independent or distinct, and

"2) there must be a serious burden on the Examiner if a restriction is not required. See M.P.E.P. §803.092, 806.04 A through J, 808.01(a) and 808.02."

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner would not be unduly burdened if forced to examine embodiments 1-5.

For all of the above stated reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding restriction/election requirement and favorable allowance of all claims in the instant application are earnestly solicited.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Very truly yours,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, PLC

By\_

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JAC/cah